



TIMBERLAKE TIMES

Fall 2023

Timberlake Ranch Landowners Association

Photo by Shirl Henderson

"President's Ponderings"

by Linda Pedersen

In the September 2010 Timberlake Times, I wrote in President's Ponderings of how a very brief event occurred while walking my favorite Timberlake road with my Golden and Wheaton. It personified to me "A Thin Place" spoken of in Irish Celtic lore. I know others have had similar moments if you've lived here long enough. We Timberlakers are blessed in so many ways to have a special place where we can be removed from the noise, smell, and congestion of urban environments.

- Space to breathe this wonderful clean air
- Walking, jogging, cycling or horseback riding on the backroads and only meeting the wildlife of Timberlake
- The overwhelming brightness of the stars at night
- Fragrance of pine trees and sagebrush after a heavy dew or rain
- Sunrises shining on the striated sandstone cliffs and sunsets behind them
- A sense of peace and all is well with one's soul on a morning walk beside the lake or skimming the surface in a kayak
- Fog as it lies in the valley when the cool air and humidity collide
- Experience all four seasons as in life
- Seeing the majestic Elk on their journey to and from the lake
- Relaxing with a morning steaming cup of coffee or a glass of wine in the late afternoon surrounded by nature
- The simple friendly gesture of a wave of the hand as we pass each other on the road

We borrow this "Thin Place" for a period of time during our life and then we must eventually release it to another hoping we left the forest healthier and our imprint miniscule. To whom much is given, much is required! THANK YOU stewards of this pristine place and all the selfless souls who share your talents whether they be musical and artistic, or protect us from fire and give us emergency care, or help build the trails for us to experience the hidden beauty of the Commons along the cliffs, or work to support and give back to the community through volunteering, or the simple act of knowing when your neighbor needs help. You are a gift beyond measure to Timberlake.

Timberlake Ranch Superheroes

by Nancy and Wayne Ramm

Yes, my friends, Timberlake Ranch has its very own team of superheroes! Cleverly disguised under the name **Timberlake Volunteer Fire Department, Station 55**, these selfless men and women not only protect us from the eminent danger of fire, they are ready at a moment's notice to provide medical and physical assistance.

With a strong legacy of leadership, this team is clearly committed to our little community. Not many of us would be willing to drop everything, leave family events, or give up a peaceful night's rest to race into the dark of night to the latest unknown chaos or emergency. But they do.

Once on scene, their remarkable leadership and training are readily apparent. In deciding a course of action, there is no delay, indecision, or debate, only fluidity and focus, and at all times they are professional and empathetic. Hundreds of hours of training go into this amazing volunteer team, who are laser-focused in their quest for excellence, but it is their powerful desire to serve their neighbors that fuels them, as well as fortifies the unified spirit of Station 55. There is no paycheck, only the private reward of giving back and safeguarding our beautiful, rural community.

Dealing with people at sometimes the lowest point in their lives, their humanity is on full display as they never lose sight of the need for kindness, empathy, and compassion. Our family will be forever grateful and thank them for their unwavering commitment to serve and the sacrifice of their personal time and energy.

Yes, Timberlake Ranch, there are superheroes living among us. The only things that are missing are the capes.



Back row:

Rick Farrell,
Mike Broderick,
Frank Beissel,
Wade Aubuchon,
Lesley Barbour,
Bill Sanders.

Front row:

Maria Shaw,
Trish Anderson,
Andy Wilson,
Melinda Aubuchon,
Julie Farrell.

Timberlake Volunteer Fire Department: Station 55



IMPORTANT!

To avoid delays when calling for help, please **do not call members of the fire department directly.**

The call needs to be sent through the Dispatch Center for proper response.

When calling 9-1-1,

REMEMBER

to tell the dispatcher you need

STATION 55

Otherwise, first responders could be dispatched **all the way from Grants.**

Gallup Independent - 09/12/2023

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Timberlake remembers



Timberlake Volunteer Fire Department volunteers Monday conduct their annual drive in the Ramah area to honor the victims of 9/11.

Timberlake Fire honors 9/11 firefighters

By Vida Volkert
Staff writer
vvolkert@gallupindependent.com

RAMAH – Driving the ambulance along a small procession of fire trucks Monday morning, Timberlake Volunteer Fire Department Capt. EMS Julie Farrell looked in her rear mirror and became emotional. “When we were on a turn, and you could see us all, I got real emotional,” Farrell said later that morning. “I’m proud of what we have here, and we take good care of it.” Farrell’s ambulance was third in a line of five fire trucks from the same department conducting their annual drive to honor victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.



Timberlake Volunteer Fire Department firefighters Maria Shaw, Billy Sanders, Chief Andy Wilson, and Capt. Julie Farrell take a break outside their station in the Zuni Mountains after conducting the annual 9/11 drive Monday.

The attacks, perpetrated by the terrorist organization al-Qaeda, killed nearly 3,000 people. See Ramah remembers, Page 5

September 14, 2023 10:41 am (GMT -6:00)

Powered by TECNAVIA

The Timberlake Volunteer Fire Department on September 11, 2023. [Click to view article.](#)



Hose training: Wade Aubuchon, Trish Anderson, Frank Beissel, Andy Wilson, Rick Farrell, Lesley Barbour, Mike Broderick, and Julie Farrell (not pictured).

Timberlake Neighborhood Volunteers

The last events for the season are now in the rearview mirror. The Mystic Bluffs Fly-in and Annual Silent Auction/Labor Day BBQ were a tremendous success. The volunteers raised a significant amount of money because of the generosity of landowners who donated quality items for the Silent Auction. The money raised has stayed in the Timberlake community to help fund various projects since 2007 and the list is lengthy.



A little bit of everything!



Congratulations

Thank You all who made this year's beautiful quilt!
The Henderson household had the pleasure of being the successful winner (after several attempts).



Mystic Bluffs Fly-In

This year's sunny, calm clear skies and a dry airstrip made up for last year's rain and mud. A good turnout, with everyone enjoying a hearty breakfast provided by the Timberlake Volunteers.



Makers of Timberlake

Rose Carlson, Horse Trail Consultant

Interview by Rachel Schali

Rachel: How did you find out about Timberlake?

Rose: We were living in southern New Mexico near Alamogordo; I retired and Stan had been retired for a while. We've both like the Zuni Mountains. We used to work in Grants at the NMSU Branch campus and lived in the Zuni Mountains at that time. After we retired, we were ready for a change and decided to move back near the Zuni's. We knew about Timberlake Ranch from when we lived in the Zuni Mountains before. We started looking and found a nice house listed in Timberlake Ranch and purchased it. We have been here for about a year and half.

Rachel: The Zuni Mountains are amazing. Your horse Shamal has a lovely-sounding name, what does it mean?

Rose: That's quite interesting actually, he's a registered Arabian horse. I bought him from his breeder who lives in Nebraska. His registered name is Ata Al Shamal and that actually means "Gift of the Night Wind". He was named that because he was born in the middle of the night during a large windstorm. So that's how he got his name. I just shortened it to Shamal because it's easier to say instead of the whole thing. Most people do that if they have a registered horse, they have a barn name.



Rose and Shamal

Makers of Timberlake, continued

Rose Carlson, Horse Trail Consultant

Rachel: How did you come to be the horse trail consultant for the new commons trail?

Rose: Laughs, I don't know. I'd been trying to find trails to ride because when I first got here, I was just riding the roads. I'm a trail rider and prefer riding trails rather than roads. I met your husband Ron, at my very first board meeting. I knew from the Timberlake Ranch website there were horse access points on the ranch giving access to power line trails in the common land and residents were allowed to ride/hike in the common land. He took me around and showed me all the access points.

Rachel: The horse trails?

Rose: No, the access points to the power lines in the common land, which was what I was going to ride. When I heard about the trail, I was quite excited and wanted to help build it. One thing led to another and as I was a horse rider, I became the "horse consultant". I wanted to make sure the trail was constructed in a manner that it would be suitable for horses to ride as well as people to walk and hike on it.

Rachel: So, what are the standards?

Rose: I'm not sure of official standards, but really you need it to be wide enough so that a horse can walk on it. A person can walk on a much narrower trail.. It doesn't have to be wide all the time, but for sure when you have a steep downhill or uphill with a drop off on one side; on a really narrow trail it's is easy for a horse to get one of their feet off the edge. I'd say 24 inches on steep sections, 18 inches on flat terrain.

Rachel: Really, so it's not that big.

Rose: It's really narrow trail, it's easy for a horse to get one of their feet off the edge. I'd say 24 inches on steep sections, 18 inches on flat terrain.

Rachel: Really, so it's not that big.

Rose: No, it doesn't really need to be that wide. Horses are very agile animals and can handle all kinds of terrain. Another important aspect is that you need to have overhead clearance as when you are on your horse's back, you are much taller.

Rachel: Yeah, laughing, that would be nice.

Rose: It really is quite simple.

Rachel: Is there a standard clearance, how high does it have to be?

Rose: The best way is to ride the trail and if we have to duck, then we need to trim the overhanging branches. I would say seven to eight feet clearance would be adequate for most riders.



Kathy Waller and Rose Carlson with their horses.

Makers of Timberlake, continued

Rose Carlson, Horse Trail Consultant

Rachel: How do we design a trail to be friendly to horses?

Rose: Once again, just make it at least 18 to 24 inches wide and have enough clearance for rider. If it crosses slick rock, you can put some sand on it to give horses traction, or have alternate route they can take.

Rachel: So not a lot of rock, height for the rider on the horse.

Rose: Pretty common-sense stuff actually. One other thing if you are trying to go up steep inclines, then you need to include switchbacks. Same for hikers also.

Rachel: Switchbacks are nice. What should people do if they see a horse on the trail?

Rose: The best thing to do is stay visible and talk to people. Once a horse hears the rider and hiker talking, they know it's just a person and there's nothing to be scared of.

Rachel: So stay visible and talk to the rider?

Rose: Yes, and normal trail etiquette is for horse riders to have priority over hikers; move off the trail to let the rider pass. Some riders will move off trail and let the hiker go by. Whatever works best in each situation. Just a matter of communication between the riders and hikers. I usually let people meet my horse if they are interested. Kids especially like to see the horses. It's always important to ask the rider first before approaching their horse though.

Rachel: What's your experience of the trail?

Rose: I've been a trail rider for 27 years and have ridden a lot of trails. I've ridden in some very beautiful places, in the Zuni Mountains, up on Mount Taylor near Grants (Lobo Canyon), and southern New Mexico in the Lincoln National Forest near Cloudcroft and Ruidoso. I also competed in the sport of endurance for several years, here in New Mexico, Texas and Arizona.

This is my first experience building a trail; I'm learning a lot, and having a lot of fun. The ultimate goal is to have at least 8 miles of hiking/ riding trail on the Common Land in Timberlake Ranch for residents and guests to access the beauty of the ranch without having to be on the roads. There is a place at the base of the cliffs that Greg Brooks (trail master) took me to that he is calling Timberlake Point. The views there are incredible. You have a 360-degree view of Timberlake Ranch and Box S. The plan is to build the trail to that point so everyone can enjoy close up the incredibly beautiful place we all live in. Currently, we are working on the section from Cottonwood Loop to Aspen Loop that we hope to finish this year. Next year, we will start on the trail to Timberlake Point.



Trail volunteers hard at work

Makers of Timberlake, continued

Rose Carlson, Horse Trail Consultant

Rachel: What's your experience on this trail specifically?

Rose: I've ridden it many times and I absolutely love it. There are a few spots that are a little tough on the horse where the trail goes across a section of granite and some rock steps, but we can go around on the edge. It's a good trail for the horses, some easy sections, but it also has some challenging areas which is good. What I usually do is ride the trail until the end (which right now is Cottonwood Loop), then ride along the power lines that are in common land. Sometimes we ride into the common land and do some bushwhacking which is fun also. Again, I just love the Timberlake Trail and hope more people get out and hike/ride it. The trail is just such a fantastic addition to Timberlake Ranch. So much more enjoyable than riding or walking along the roads.

Rose: I come off this trail and I have a big smile on my face, I absolutely love it.

Rachel: And there's these places I never knew existed.

Rose: Like the amphitheater. When we were scouting for the trail between Cottonwood Loop and Aspen Loop, we found a grotto that looks like there'll be a waterfall over the edge when it rains.

Rachel: Is there anything you want to tell us that I didn't ask about?

Rose: I encourage everyone to come out and use the trail, both hikers and riders. There are many ways to help with Timberlake Trail in addition to actually working on building the trail. You can find out more information about the trail and how you can help on the Timberlake Ranch website (trnews.info). When you go on website, on the menu under Everything Else, scroll down until you see link for Trails. Click on Application to have your contact information forwarded to Greg Brookes, trail master, so you can be added to the contact list for further information about helping with the trail. The more people helping the better.



Rich ?, Rick Antosh, Greg Brookes, Rose Carlson, Stan Carlson, Ron Schali and Gail Ratko (not pictured) after a hard day's work.

Timberlake Ranch Trails

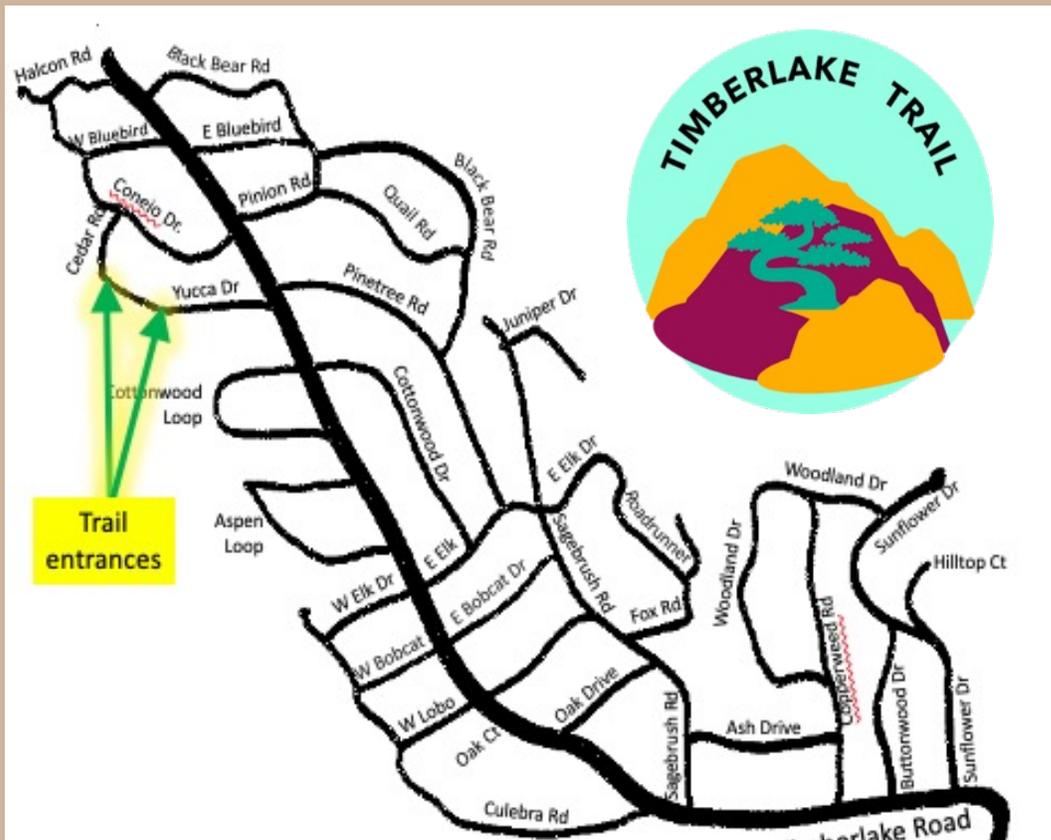
by Rachel Schali

The Timberlake trail history goes all the way back to the beginning of the subdivision, when some properties had right of ways on the property for equestrian trails to give access to Common Land. Land was set aside for recreational use for anyone in Timberlake. Hikers have used the Commons for twenty years since I've lived here, mostly using deer paths, tree lines, and arroyos.

There has been trail building, mostly by equestrian users, for at least fifteen years. My old neighbor Mary Jo Wallen, and her friend Shirl tied streamers, as trail markers to trees, designating trails, some are still up.

Within the last five years there has been a renewed interest in building trails. Now that we have Greg Brookes, an experienced trail builder who worked extensively on the Pacific Crest Trail, the trails are getting more defined and beautiful areas of Common Land are more accessible, even for retired folks like me. We are printing signs so people know where the trails are. Below you will find a map. There are Common Lands trails rules on the TRLA website.

Please stay on the trails and follow the rules, to protect private properties, hikers, equestrians, and the Common Land areas. **The electric line easements on private properties are not public trails.** While using the electric line easements for trails in the Common Land areas, please stay at least ten feet inside the Common Land side to make sure you are not trespassing on private property, as the electric lines can stray a bit . Thank you and enjoy!



Get ready, the snow is coming.

1

FIREPLACES AND GAS APPLIANCES

Give your fireplace a thorough inspection to mitigate risks. Over time, soot and creosote can build up in your home's chimney, increasing the risk of a fire.

If you have a gas fireplace, the pilot lights should be relit according to manufacturer instructions. Gas fireplaces should also be cleaned and inspected.

2

CHECK SMOKE DETECTORS AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

Proper ventilation is especially important in the winter months when you are using the furnace and fireplace. It's important to check the batteries in your smoke detector and carbon monoxide detectors routinely.

3

PREVENT PIPES FROM FREEZING

Don't turn the heat below 55 degrees in your house. To prevent frozen pipes, insulate pipes near windows, doors and in unheated areas of your home.

4

GET YOUR EQUIPMENT READY.

Check all car and equipment batteries. Make sure shovels and snowblowers are easily accessible. Start up generators to be sure you can depend on them when power is lost.

5

STOCK VEHICLES FOR EMERGENCIES.

Your winter emergency kit should include basic survival supplies, safety items, car maintenance tools, and winter clothing to help you stay comfortable and safe if you get stuck on the side of the road or need to wait out a storm.



Kitty litter



Bleach



Deicing fluid



Shovel



Multi-tool



Hand warmers



Sleeping bag



Hand-crank flashlight



Books



Cell phone charger



Nonperishable food and water

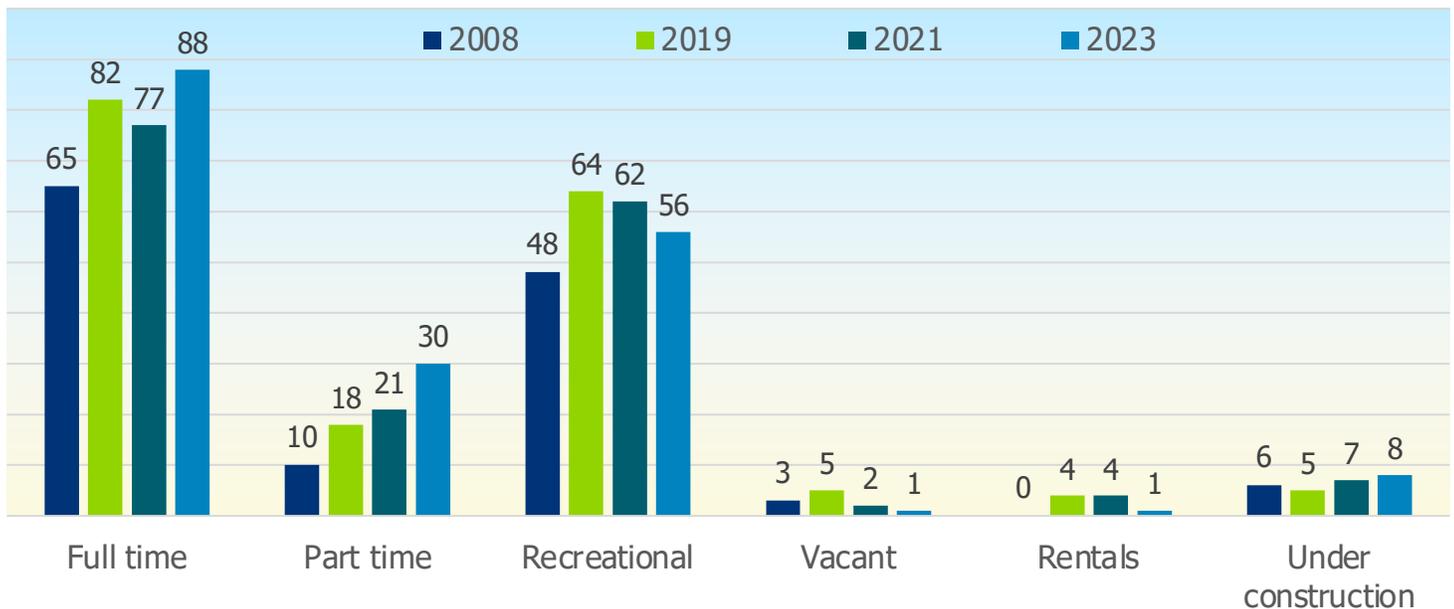


First aid kit

Timberlake by the Numbers

As of May 2023, Timberlake landowners (574) reside in 30 states and two foreign countries (England and Switzerland.) The top three states landowners come from are **New Mexico (52%) Arizona (33%) CA (8%).**

	2007 – 2008	2019	2020-2021	2022-2023
Full Time	65	82	77	88
Part Time	10	18	21	30
Recreational	48	64	62	56
Vacant	3	5	2	1
Rentals		4	4	1
Under Construction	6	5	7	8
TOTAL	126	173	175	184



ROSIE Alert

The Rosie Alert was established as an alert system for Timberlake residents. Receive emails with information about safety situations, road conditions, and missing, injured, or found pets and livestock. to sign up, contact Rosie Alerts by email [here](#).

TRLA BOARD MEMBERS

President

LINDA PEDERSEN

Phone: 505.783.0908

pete137@juno.com

Vice President & Director

MARY ANN ARMIJO

Phone: 505.783.4190

maryarmijo611@gmail.com

Treasurer

STEVE STEVENS

Phone: 923.580.4291

trlatreasurer@gmail.com

Roads

JOE MARTINEZ

Phone: 602.677.9625

trlaroads@gmail.com

Secretary

JUDI McCLELLAN-MURPHY

Phone: 505.236.4552

trlasecretary@gmail.com

Commons, Architectural & Maintenance

STEVE WILLS

Phone: 505.783.0122

trlacommons@gmail.com

**Communications,
Architectural & Maintenance**

JULIE FARRELL

Phone: 602.920.1384

julie.farrell923@gmail.com

TRLA Webmaster:

webmastertrla@gmail.com

Timberlake Times Newsletter:

trlatimberlaketimes@gmail.com



TRLA Website:

<http://www.trnews.info/>

BULLETIN BOARD



Don't forget...

Correct mailing address is critical for property taxes!

After three years of nonpayment of property taxes, the NM Delinquent Property Tax Bureau takes possession of the property and auctions are scheduled by county. **There is no recourse for the landowner.**

Both McKinley County and Cibola County auctions have resumed after a long hiatus due to COVID. To view the list of properties scheduled for auction, use this link: <https://www.tax.newmexico.gov/businesses/property-tax-overview/delinquent-property-tax-auctions>

Cibola County
Treasurer's Office:
CLICK HERE

McKinley County
Treasurer's Office:
CLICK HERE

Stay Connected!

TRLA Website:
<http://www.trnews.info/>

Timberlake Times Editors:
trlatimberlaketimes@gmail.com

Timberlake *remembers*



Vida Volkert/Independent

Timberlake Volunteer Fire Department volunteers Monday conduct their annual drive in the Ramah area to honor the victims of 9/11.

Timberlake Fire honors 9/11 firefighters

By Vida Volkert

Staff writer

vvolkert@gallupindependent.com

RAMAH – Driving the ambulance along a small procession of fire trucks Monday morning, Timberlake Volunteer Fire Department Capt. EMS Julie Farrell looked in her rear mirror and became emotional.

“When we were on a turn, and you could see us all, I got real emotional,” Farrell said later that morning. “I’m proud of what we have here, and we take good care of it.”

Farrell’s ambulance was third in a line of five fire trucks from the same department conducting their annual drive to honor victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The attacks, perpetrated by the terrorist organi-

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Vida Volkert/Independent

Timberlake Volunteer Fire Department firefighters Maria Shaw, Billy Sanders, Chief Andy Wilson, and Capt. Julie Farrell take a break outside their station in the Zuni Mountains after conducting the annual 9/11 drive Monday.



Vida Volkert/Independent

Donna and Sonny Lunde wave as Timberlake Volunteer Fire Department volunteers conduct their annual drive to honor victims of 9/11.

Ramah remembers

Continued from Page 1

zation al-Qaeda, caused the deaths of 2,996 people, including 343 New York firefighters who died in the line of duty.

‘Thankful’

“Every year, it hits me,” Julie Farrell said. “Every year, I feel so thankful that we have a fire department and that I’m a part of it.”

The drive started at 9 a.m. Monday, Sept. 11, and included Timberlake Volunteer Fire Department firefighters Rick Farrell, Frank Beissel, Trish Anderson, Maria Shaw, Wade Aubuchon, assistant chief Billy Sanders and chief Andy Wilson.

Donna and Sonny Lunde, a retired couple from Buckeye, Arizona, who spends summers at their property in the Ramah area, stood on their front yard as the procession of fire trucks drove past.

“We are just proud of them and we thank them for what they do,” Donna Lunde said.

Sonny Lunde recalled that on Sept. 11, 2001, he was working at the Union Pacific Railroad yard in California when the alarms went off at about 7 a.m., which would have been about 9 a.m. on the East Coast.

“I went to the main building and turned the TV on and watched the event, I mean the terrible thing happening,” he said. “I thought we were being attacked by foreign countries because the pilots would never run into something like that; they have too many sensors.”

That morning, 19 terrorists hijacked four commercial airliners scheduled to travel from the New England and Mid-Atlantic regions of the East Coast to California.

The hijackers crashed the first two planes into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, two of the world’s five tallest buildings at the



Vida Volkert/Independent

Uniforms and gear belonging to Timberlake Volunteer Fire Department volunteers hang from a rack inside the station in the Timberlake Ranch community Monday.

time, and aimed the next two flights toward targets in or near Washington, D.C., in an attack on the nation’s capital.

The third team succeeded in crashing into the Pentagon, the headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense in Arlington County, Virginia, while the fourth plane crashed in rural Pennsylvania following a passenger revolt.

“I don’t know if it changed my perception of life,” Sonny Lunde said, “I think it changed my percep-

tive that we can not trust anybody anymore and that is sad.”

‘In shock’

Millions watched in horror as the events unfolded on TV.

The attacks required a large response of local emergency and rescue personnel to assist in the evacuation of the two towers, resulting in a large loss of the same personnel when the towers collapsed. After the attacks, the media termed the World Trade Center site “Ground Zero,” while rescue personnel referred to it as “the Pile.”

Julie Farrell, who joined the Timberlake Volunteer Fire Department in 2016, remembered she was home Sept. 11, 2001, when her sister called and asked to turn on the TV.

“I think I was numbed,” Farrell remembers. “I had to watch it for a while to figure out what happened. I was in shock.”

Despite the tragedy, Farrell was not discouraged to become a firefighter herself.

After she joined the department, she went to EMS school to become an EMT and got her fire training from the department’s chief Andy Wilson. She said most people who become firefighters do it out of a desire to help others and serve their communities, to be a part of something bigger that might require significant sacrifices.

“It’s just something you do – you don’t think about it,” she said about the risks she takes responding to fires and dangerous situations in the line of duty. “It’s why you get in the fire department.”

The Timberlake Volunteer Fire Department falls within the McKinley County Fire Rescue, which is made up of five battalions, consisting of 22 fire stations that provide emergency services to residents and visitors of McKinley County. McKinley County Fire Rescue serves approximately 5,500 square miles of territory throughout state, county, and tribal lands.